

CHEWING-GUM NUCLEUS OF VESICAL CALCULUS.

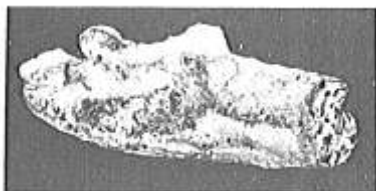
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USUALLY the peculiar psychopathic condition that impels a patient to introduce a foreign body into the urethra leads to secretiveness, but not so in this instance. The patient is a male, thirty-eight years old, a druggist by occupation and of fair intelligence. He applied to me immediately after the occurrence of the accident, now to be related, stating that he had been troubled for five or six years with a peculiar uneasiness in the deep urethra. He never had gonorrhoea or any bladder trouble, but six years ago had a fistula in ano, in the course of the treatment for which rectal bougies were used. This gave him the idea that something of the kind would relieve his urethral discomfort, so he had been using at intervals of every five or six months a piece of chewing gum on the end of a broom straw, which he would introduce into the urethra as far as the straw would go and then withdraw it; this he said would always relieve him of the peculiar feeling in the urethra. This chewing-gum straw bougie he had again attempted to use, but on this occasion the piece of gum had come off the straw when he attempted to remove it.

He was situated so that I could see him every day and not so that he could undergo an operation at once, so I explored the urethra and bladder with sound and cystoscope, and located the gum in the bladder and attempted to extricate it with a Bigelow's lithotrite, but only succeeded in breaking it into two pieces. One piece engaged in the urethra the next day and was voided with the urine during an act of micturition; the other piece remained in the



A piece of chewing gum showing calcareous deposits
after remaining in the bladder sixty days.

bladder for sixty days, without giving rise to any trouble, except to temporarily check the flow of urine at times. At the end of this period I opened the bladder from above the pubis, and removed the remaining piece of gum. It was covered with an abundant phosphatic incrustation as shown in the figure. An uncomplicated recovery followed.